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NEWS RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DESIGN FOR UNDERSTANDING SERIES TO BE HELD AT USD

SAN DIEGO, Calif.--The Social Action Committee of the San Diego Diocese Priests' Senate is sponsoring a Design for Understanding series to be held during March at the University of San Diego.

The interracial series of panel discussions, small groups and symposia will be the first directed specifically at the Catholic community, said a spokesman for the Priests' Committee.

"While there have been DFU's sponsored in the past by other area churches, this is the first one for Catholics as Catholics," said Gene Plateen, arrangements chairman.

The DFU will begin Mar. 2 and meet every Sunday and Thursday until Mar. 30. The program is produced by the Citizens' Interracial Committee of San Diego. It will be held at the USD College for Women Theatre.

The Design for Understanding format is designed to inform the majority community with the problems of San Diego's minority communities as seen by spokesmen of the city's minority groups, said Carrol Waymon, executive director of the Citizens' Interracial Committee.

The DFU is open to all who wish to attend, Plateen said, but a maximum effort is being made to reach both religious and lay Catholics. "It is hoped that each parish in the greater San Diego area will be represented by priests, sisters, and lay people."

The Most Rev. Francis J. Furey, Bishop of San Diego, in a letter to the priests of the Diocese, said, "Certain tensions between racial and
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ethnic groups may present problems calling for Christian social action in our diocese.

"We believe," the bishop continued, "that dialogue and education are necessary if we are to find solutions to these problems. With its emphasis on meaningful communication with persons of African and Mexican culture, it is hoped that this program will bring about a better understanding of today's world."

Other Catholic organizations endorsing the DFU program include the regional executive board of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the University of San Diego and the Council of Religious Women. Among those endorsing the DFU is the Very Rev. John A. Dickie, superintendent of parochial schools in the diocese.

For preregistration or further information, those interested may call the arrangements chairman at 582-7773.

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